



FEMA

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Monday, December 18, 2017
Issued: 0800 CT

Day 1 Weather Impacts: *No significant weather expected.*

National Weather Service

*Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX*



**Prepared by: Jennifer McNatt
817-978-1100 x 147**

Key Points



Today

- Showers and isolated storms continue over SE & E TX as well as LA but widespread severe weather and/or heavy rain is not expected

Tuesday

- Heavy rain/isolated flash flooding possible from NE TX into NW LA and S AR but widespread flooding not expected due to ongoing drought conditions
- Strong to severe storms possible over SE TX in the afternoon/evening and into N LA/SE AR overnight; strong winds and an isolated tornado possible

Wednesday - Friday

- No significant weather expected on Wednesday
- Snow possible again over NM by Thursday as the next front moves into the Region
- As this front moves into eastern portions of the Region Thursday night into Friday, rain chances increase; a few strong to severe storms possible Friday

See extra slide at the end of the presentation for the forecast possibilities next weekend into Christmas Day.

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Dec 18, 2017 through Dec 22, 2017

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Severe Weather		SE TX, N LA, SE AR			E TX, AR, LA
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding		S AR, NW LA, NE TX			
Fire Weather					
Winter				NM	
River Flooding					

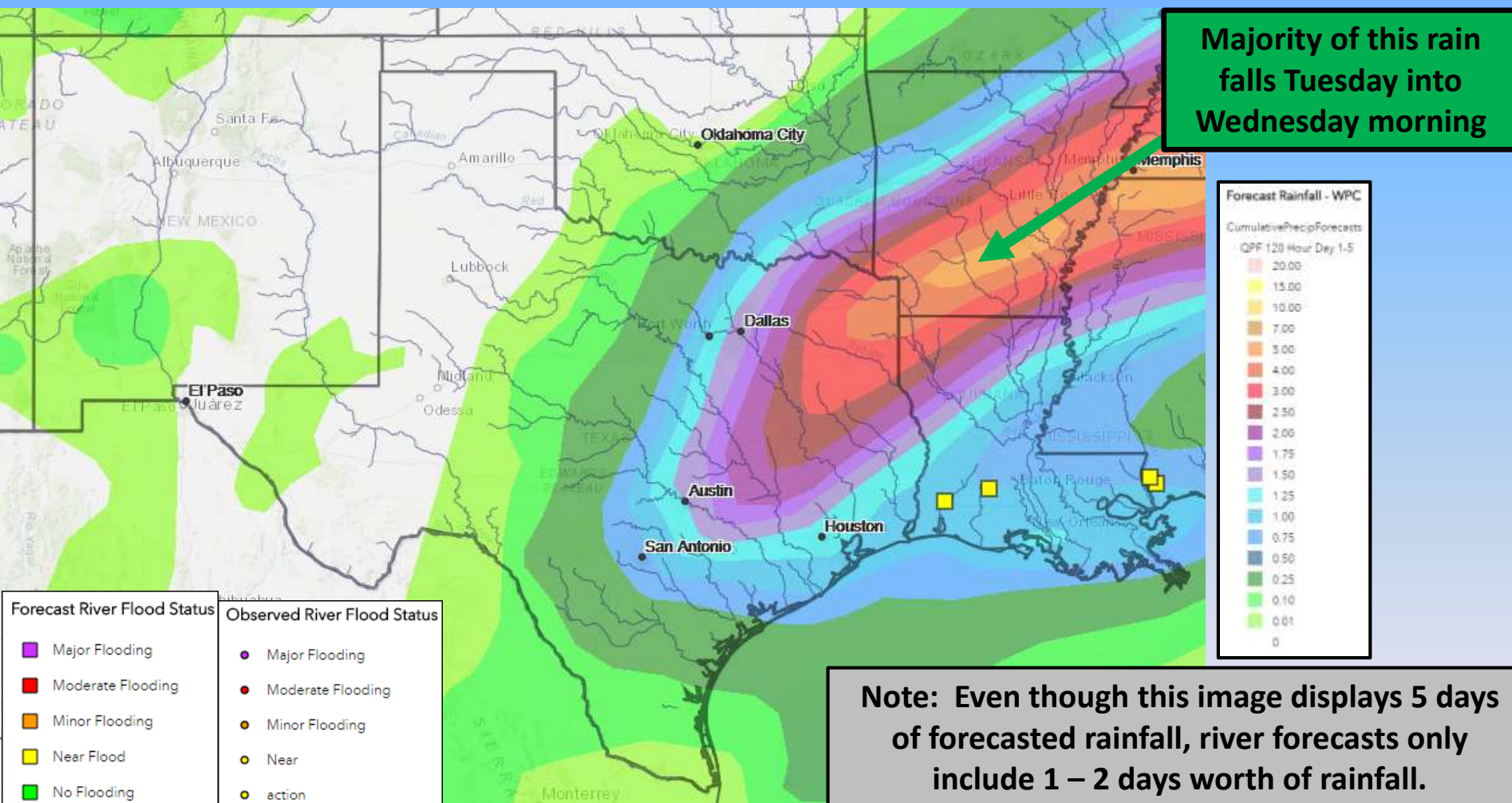
	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.



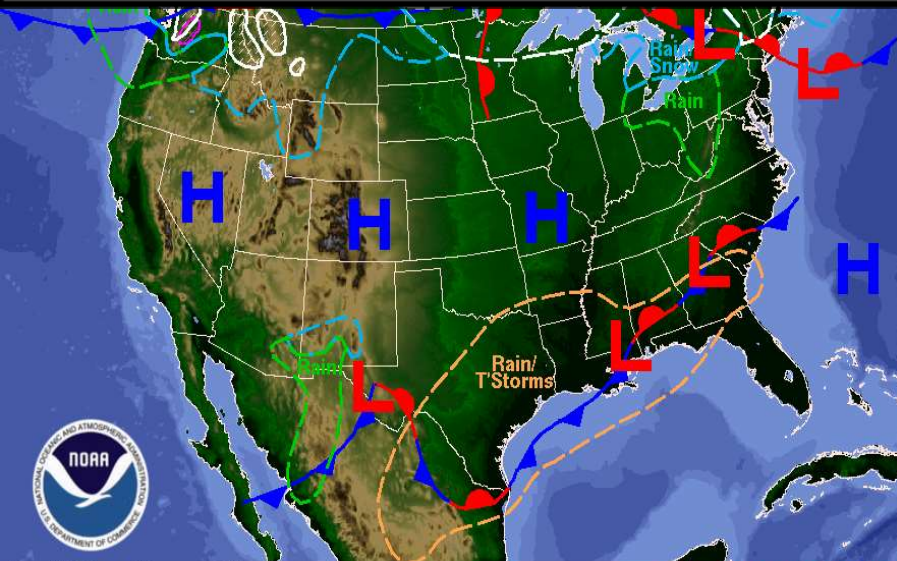
5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

An active weather pattern will bring rain chances to at least the eastern half of the Region over the next week. Widespread flooding is not expected as these areas have seen little rainfall recently but minor rises are possible.



For the latest on river flooding: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps>

Today's Weather

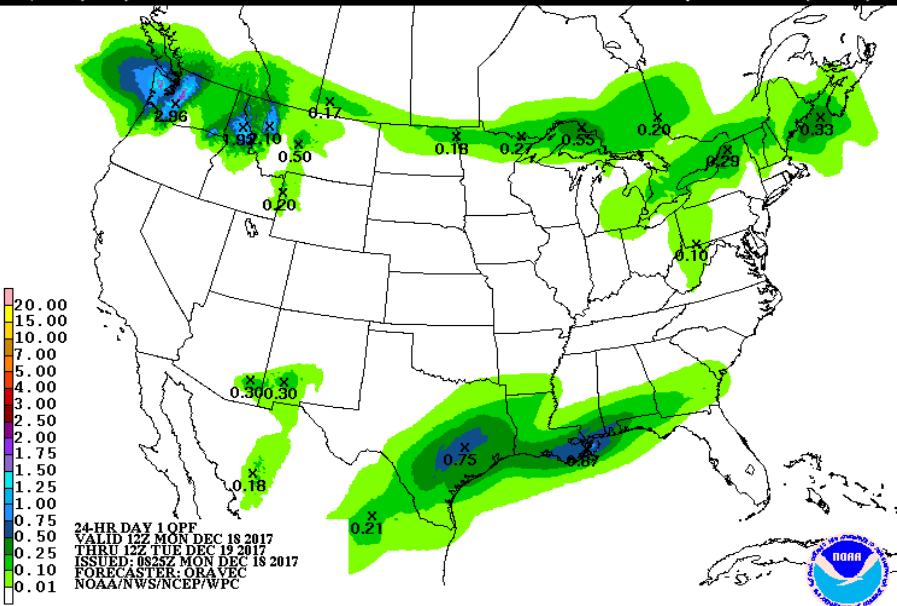


Storms continue across SE & E TX as well as LA, but severe weather and/or heavy rain is not expected.

Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Dec 18, 2017, issued 4:50 AM CST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



24 HR DAY 1 O/PF
VALID 12Z MON DEC 18 2017
THRU 12Z TUE DEC 19 2017
ISSUED: 0625Z MON DEC 18 2017
FORECASTER: ORA/VEC
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

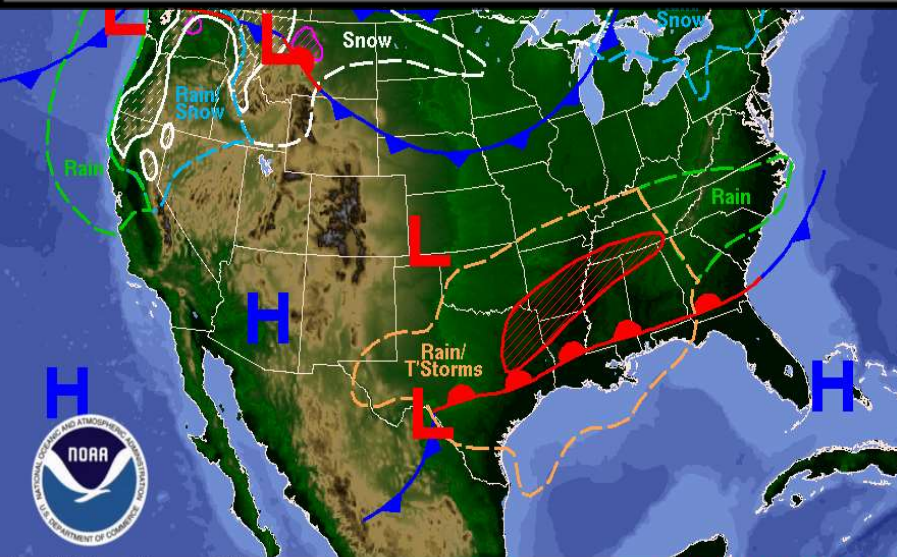
Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 8

Severe Weather Outlook Monday, December 18, 2017

Last Updated: Dec 18 2017 0650 AM CST
Valid Until: Dec 19 2017 0600 AM CST



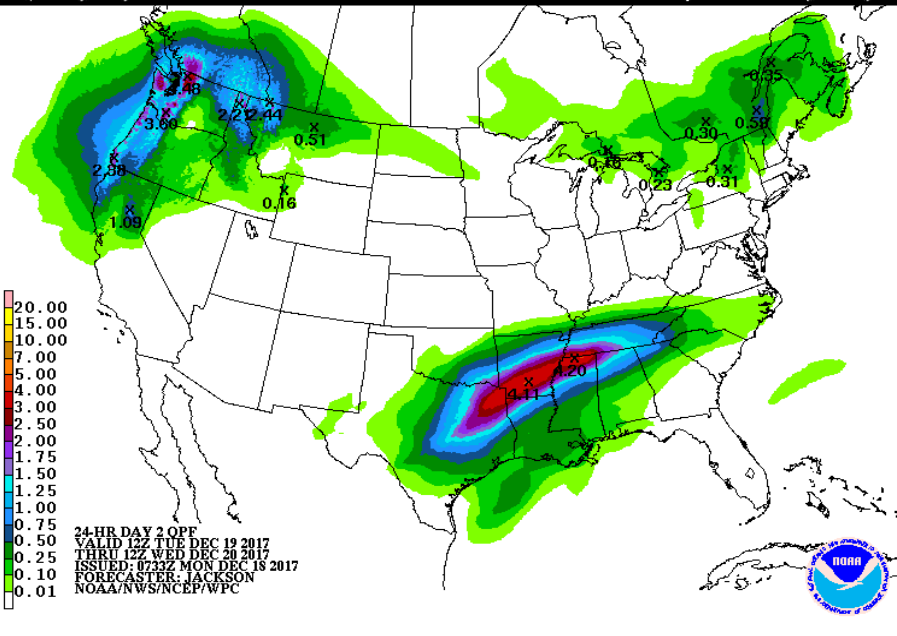
Tomorrow's Weather



Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Dec 19, 2017, issued 4:54 AM EST Mon, Dec 18, 2017
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Moreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



24-HR DAY 2 OPI
VALID 12Z TUE DEC 19 2017
THRU 12Z WED DEC 20 2017
ISSUED: 0733Z MON DEC 18 2017
FORECASTER: JACKSON
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

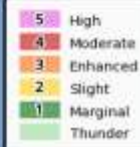
A few strong storms possible in SE TX into N LA and SE AR Tuesday afternoon/evening into the overnight hours; strong winds and an isolated tornado possible.

Heavy rain/isolated flash flooding possible from NE TX through NW LA and S AR although widespread flooding not expected due to ongoing drought conditions.

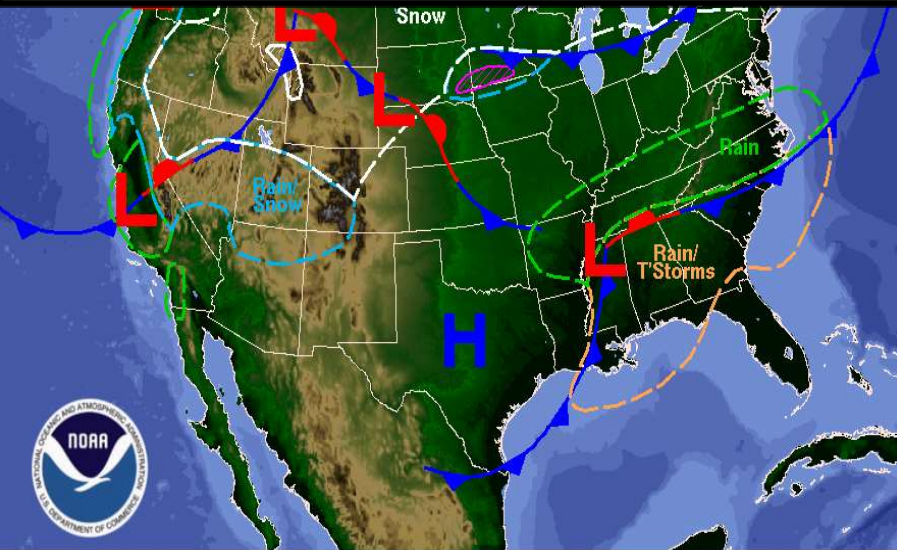


Severe Weather Outlook Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Last Updated: Dec 17 2017 11:56 PM CST
Valid 0001Z Dec 20 2017 0600 AM CST



Wednesday's Weather

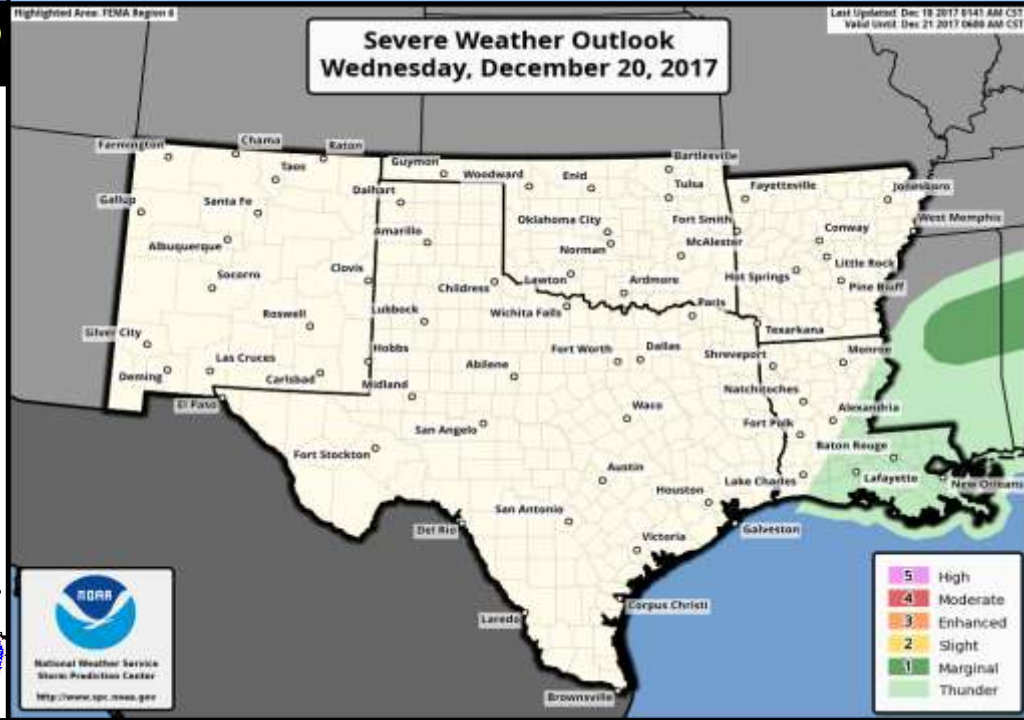
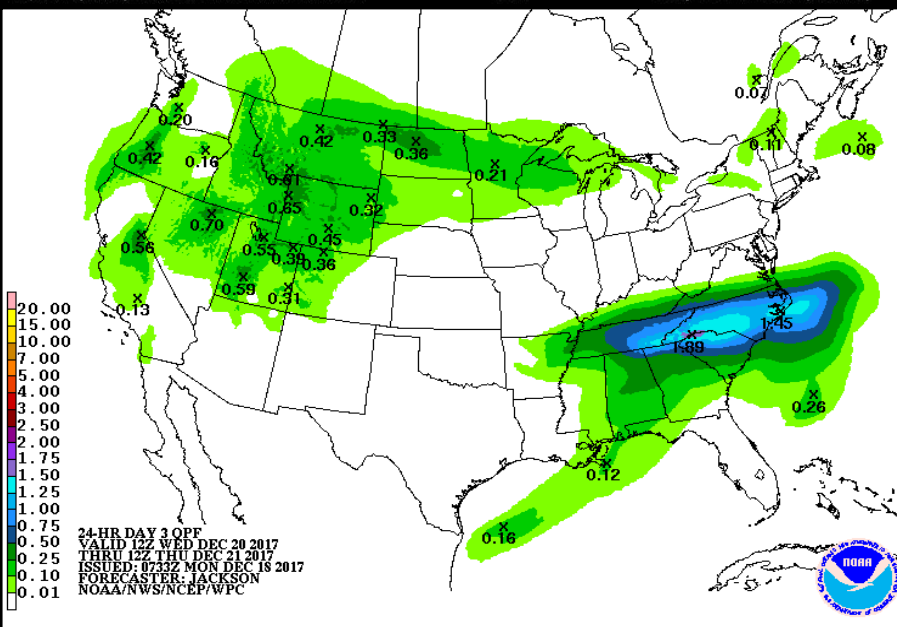


No significant weather expected.

Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Dec 20, 2017, issued 4:56 AM EST Mon, Dec 18, 2017
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



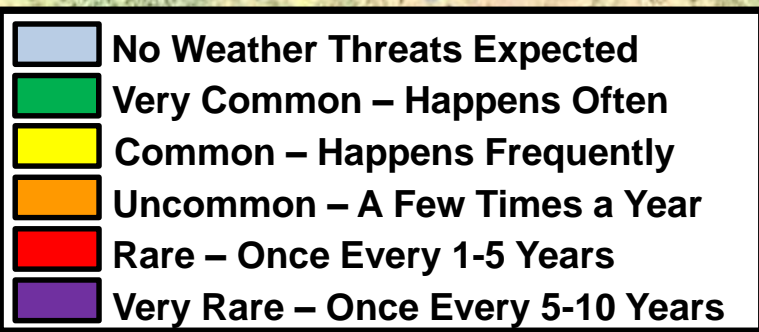
Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

Thursday - Friday



Snow chances return on Thursday; too early to pinpoint exact locations or amounts

As the front moves into eastern portions of the Region Thursday night into Friday, rain chances increase. May see a few strong storms from E TX into AR & LA on Friday.



*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.

Extended Outlook – Holiday Weekend

Bottom Line: There is some chance of wintry precipitation in Region 6 next weekend into Christmas Day.

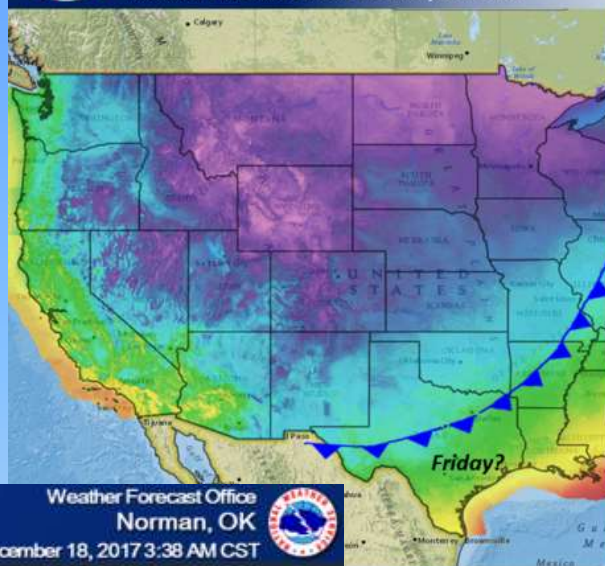
Models are now trending drier though, which would limit the amounts and locations of wintry precipitation.

Thanks to WFOs Houston and Norman for the graphics!



Late Week Cold Front

National Weather Service Houston/Galveston



So what do we know in regard to Southeast Texas?

- It will be colder than normal the weekend before Christmas into the beginning of next week.
- It is too early to determine impacts, if any.
- Winter weather cannot completely be ruled out... but several things would have to come together for that to be the case.
- Model guidance is inconsistent on what will actually happen in the longer ranges of the forecast. Expect run-to-run variations for the next several days.
- Forecast confidence should begin increasing toward midweek.

Holiday Weekend: Colder, Flurries, Less than 1" of Snow

Trust. The. Process.

Is There a Chance of Snow over the Holiday Weekend???	Yes, but models continue their drier trend, so flurries or a dusting.
Should I cancel my travel plans???	I'm not cancelling mine, but I would check the forecast every day.
Why is snow forecasting so hard???	See the graphic below.

Weather Forecast Office
Norman, OK
Issued December 18, 2017 3:38 AM CST

Saturday Night – Sunday | 23-24 December



THE REALITY OF LONG RANGE FORECASTS

An EXAMPLE why detailed forecasts are not reliable long ranges in advance.



Would you trust the 9-day forecast in this example?

National Weather Service - Norman, OK

Building a Weather Ready Nation

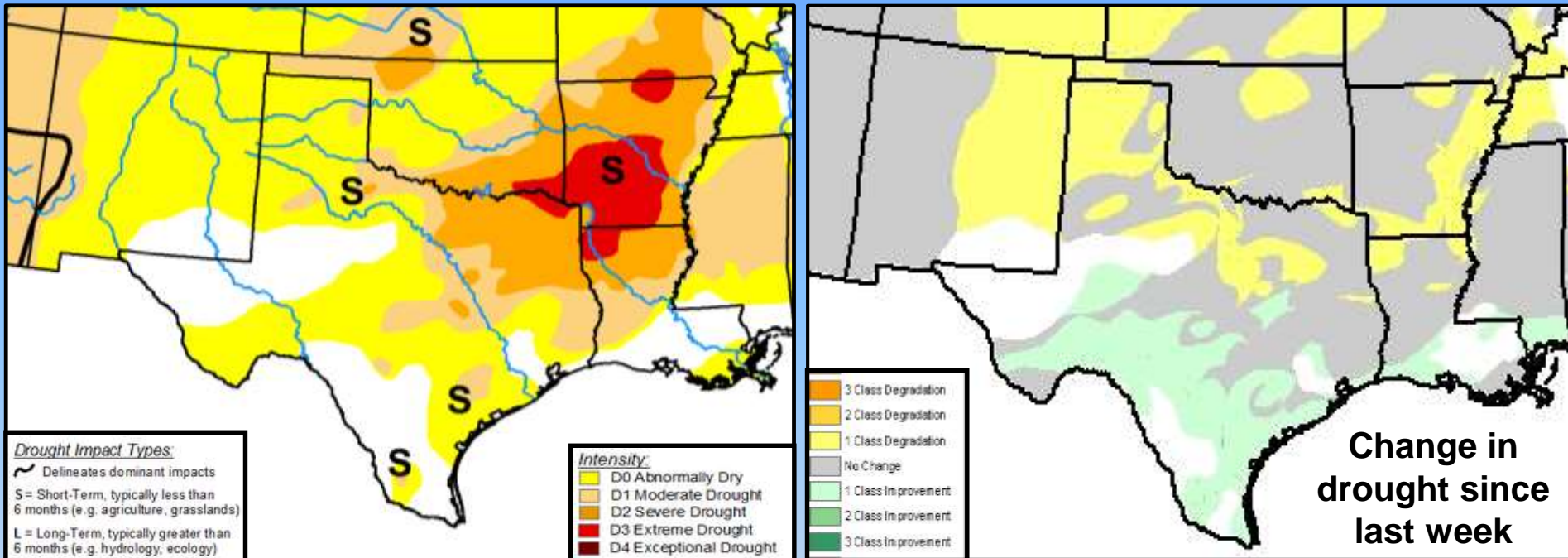
Stay tuned to the forecasts this week!

Image 12/17/2017
Created 6:34 PM



Drought Monitor Released December 14, 2017

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, December 12, 2017



Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)

State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	42.40%	26.13%	0.00%	0.00%
Louisiana	7.07%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oklahoma	3.12%	0.78%	0.00%	3.14%
Texas	0.76%	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%
New Mexico	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

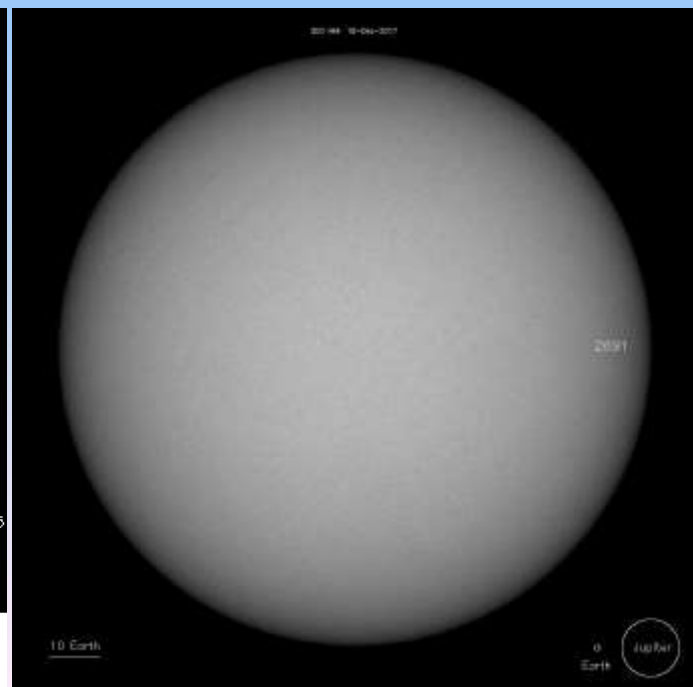
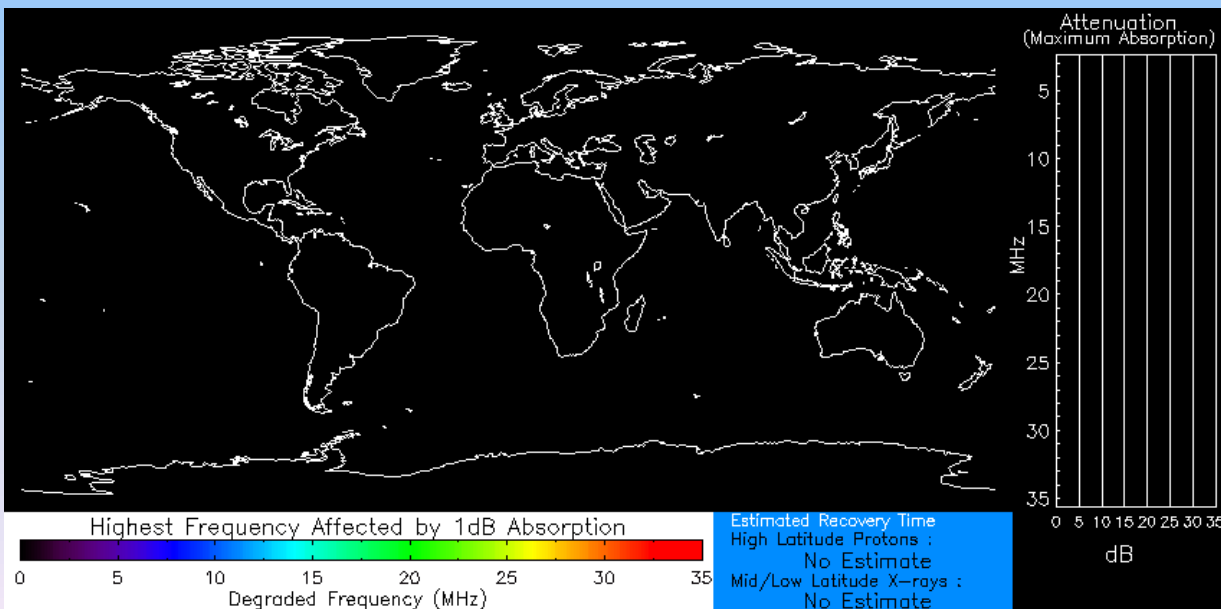
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Geomagnetic Storms	Minor (G1) Storm (Max Kp = 5)	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 4)	Quiet to Unsettled (Max Kp = 3)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



Normal X-ray Background
Product Valid At : 2017-12-18 13:16 UTC

Normal Proton Background
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Information provided by:



National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747 ***New Direct Number**
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

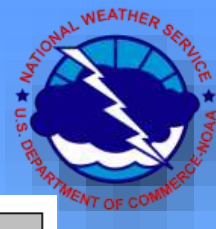
facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern>

twitter

@NWS_Southern_US https://twitter.com/NWS_Southern_US

The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov.



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	Very Common Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX
Yellow	Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail
Orange	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	Rare – Once every 1-5 Years Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms